# Mail pick up, drop off, no longer two-way street

**Story and photos by Blake Vives, CFAY Public Affairs**

Recent changes at the U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka's Military Post Office put a priority stamp on safety. The street encircling the Yokosuka Post Office is now a one-way, clockwise route as of April 19.

"There was a history of several near misses and actual traffic accidents related to parking maneuvers reported in the area [around the post office]," said Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Safety Office Traffic Safety Specialist Takahisa Sato. "In addition, we received input from the community regarding people who were illegally parked around the traffic island which made it difficult for other drivers to access the mail drop box."

The traffic pattern and high traffic volume may have been contributing factors to the previous problems occurring in the postal parking lot. The traffic safety office conducted a review of the existing signs, parking arrangements and location of car accidents in order to determine necessary changes.

"Simplifying conditions and purpose assigned to each space and reducing the amount distractions were the end goals," said Sato.

The CFAY Safety Office study found that with the recent increase in traffic volume (due to the addition of the Navy Exchange (NEX) dry cleaners to the complex) the Yokosuka Post Office parking lot presented many distractions to drivers requiring various changes.

"There were too many different functions: a mail drop box, crosswalks, parking, loading zones and traffic regulations in a small area. These conditions, along with neighboring facilities with a high volume of short time customers, made it difficult to navigate safely in the area," said Sato.

The mail collection box, once located in front of the post office, can now be found behind the building alongside the one-way road.

"Separating the parking area and mail drop box enables mail drop customers to approach the box with their vehicles safely and not feel rushed to finish their business or block other traffic," said Sato. "The area where the mail box was located is now open for vehicles to move freely in and out of the designated parking spaces."

**(Left) The recent relocation of the Navy Exchange (NEX) Dry Cleaners next to the NEX Pack and Wrap increased traffic volume in the Yokosuka Post Office parking lot. The CFAY Safety Office initiated a traffic pattern assessment, which discovered the area presented many distractions to drivers and required various changes to help improve safety.**

"The one-way street and new mail box location should facilitate customers' ability to quickly park and leave without incident and minimize danger," said Officer-In-Charge of Ikego, Negishi and Yokosuka Military Post Office's Master Chief Postal Clerk (SW) Otilio Santos.

Another anticipated change at the Yokosuka Post Office will be the designation of the area behind the large mail delivery trucks as a no parking zone to prevent the trucks from being blocked and to ensure room for the community bus to pass while on its route.

"The Yokosuka Base buses also use the street [around the post office] as part of their designated route and require a wide berth in and around that area," said Sato. "Because the Fleet Mail Center operates large trucks with trailers, the busy conditions increase the workload for drivers to search for potential hazards while trying to maneuver their vehicle safely."

In addition to safety, customer comfort was also a primary concern while planning the alterations to the parking lot.

"We have also labeled the parking areas around the post office as 15 minute customer parking to ensure gym [patrons] do not take up valuable spots that are reserved for personnel checking their mail," said Yokosuka Post Office employee Postal Clerk 1st Class (SW) Maria Roldan.

"A handicap parking spot in the front of the post office was moved directly in front of the access area for the ramp which will give customers easier access instead of getting out of their vehicle and walking to the ramp and then into the post office," said FISC Yokosuka Postal Officer Chief Postal Clerk (SW/AW) Daniel Weaver. "The curbs in the front of the post office are now painted yellow and designated as a no parking area allowing customers greater ease while backing up instead of maneuvering around other vehicles parked along the curb. The curbs at the rear of the post office are also now painted yellow and designated as a no parking area which will open the driving lanes at the rear of the building allowing room for customers to exit the facility."

Though these changes have been implemented to increase safety and comfort, drivers need to do their part too by being aware of their surroundings.

"We ask that people adhere to these recent changes in order to allow employees and postal customers full access to the post office," said Roldan. "People driving around the post office need to be mindful of postal vehicles constantly moving in the back of the post office. I would remind everyone to go around the corner slowly in order to avoid any potential accidents."

Customers may see additional changes in the future for the area around the Yokosuka Post Office because it is still under consideration by the CFAY Safety Office for further study.

"One option we are exploring with CFAY Safety is removing the grass island in the front of the post office and relocating the statue on it and utilizing this space for more parking spots," said Santos.

"Any and all future upgrades will depend on community planning and construction schedules," said Sato. "These changes were an interim measure that we could apply without doing major construction to make the roadway safer. We continue to work together with Naval Facilities Engineering Command Far East Community Planning Office to improve the traffic and parking environment for a better and safer community."

**A postal customer utilizes the mail drop box recently relocated to the back of the Yokosuka Post Office to increase area safety and relieve traffic. Other changes include the establishment of a one-way, clockwise route on the street encircling the post office and the addition of 15-minute customer parking.**

## Stricter regulations for unaccompanied baggage during PCS moves

Due to recent issues and questions regarding the maximum weight allowed in an unaccompanied baggage (UB) shipment for Navy members during a permanent change of station (PCS) move, the Fleet Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka Personal Property Office is implementing the following policy:

Effective immediately, Navy members are authorized UB not to exceed 600 pounds for the member and 200 pounds for each dependent. Thus, a member with a spouse and one dependent would be authorized 1,000 pounds.

This policy is in accordance with Joint Federal Travel Regulations paragraph U5320.B, relative to UB shipments by commercial air, as well as aligning with existing Marine Corps policy. This new guidance will be incorporated into the NAVSUP P490 under paragraph N5320.B.

Call 243-7062 for more information.

NAVSUP

## Faces of FISC

**U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka Master Labor Contract (MLC) employee Supervisory General Supply Specialist Atsushi Fujita coordinates an inventory management system update for the Regional Inventory Management Department.**
**Photo by Blake Vives**

**Where are you originally from?**
Yokohama, Japan.

**What is your favorite part of your hometown?**
It is close to the city but quiet.

**Where do you recommend people visiting Japan travel to?**
Anywhere other than a big city.

**What is special about the countryside of Japan?**
You can find unique character or culture in different countryside areas, such as food and drink.

**How is your job vital to FISC?**
I ensure the readiness of customers both afloat and on shore.

**Why did you want to work for FISC?**
It is a non-profit workplace which I can commute to easily and avoid rush-hour train congestion.